

Attorney Docket No. AGZP:115US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/709,189
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006
Date: March 2, 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 0021 with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] In particular, the or each support holds the relative folding roller at a portion not occupied by the folding rings such as a gap between the folding rings and mechanical clamps. This way, the presence of the support does not interfere with the adjusting operation of the folding roller, thus allowing processing of the sheet or web of paper without interruption of continuity. Furthermore, the use of a support does not require special further work with respect to a folding roller of prior art.

Please replace paragraph 0033 with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Like a folding roller 101 of mechanical type of prior art, the folding roller of Figure 3 has a plurality of folding elements 3 arranged in longitudinal rows alternated to a plurality of mechanical clamps 4 formed by a fixed jaw 4a and a movable jaw 4b to form folding zone 50. Even mechanical clamps 4 are arranged in longitudinal rows and with folding elements 3 form a plurality of folding rings 5 alternated to a plurality of grooves 6. In particular, as diagrammatically shown in Figure 7, a folding or interfolding machine comprises a first folding roller 1a and a second folding roller 1b, which are counter rotating; they interact at a contact line 15 and make a stack 50 of folded and/or interfolded sheets in a folding area downstream of the contact line 15. In particular, in the instant shown in Figure 7 at the contact line 15 a folding element 3b of roller 1b interacts with a mechanical clamp 4a of roller 1a in order to cause the sheet of paper, not shown, to adhere to the surface of the relative roller. The alternation of folding elements 3 and of mechanical clamps 4 on the boundary of the folding rollers 1 and the presence of folding fingers 25a and 25b allows stack 50 to form of folded and/or interfolded sheets.

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Please replace paragraph 0035 with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] It must be noted that support 10 holds folding roller 1 at an angular portion circumferentially not occupied by folding elements 3 and by mechanical clamps 4 (Figure 6), and that it is inclined at a certain angle with respect to the plane containing the centres of the two rollers. Such an unoccupied portion may be in the form of a gap between folding elements 3 and/or mechanical clamps 4. Such an unoccupied portion may be in the form of a gap between folding elements 3 and/or mechanical clamps 4. This way, the presence of support 10 does not interfere with the adjusting operation of the folding rollers 1a and 1b and allows processing of the sheet or web of paper without interruption of continuity. Furthermore, the use of a support 10 does not require special further works with respect to a folding roller of prior art 101, as will be apparent comparing, for example, Figure 1, where a roller 101 of prior art is shown, with Figure 5, where instead a roller 1 is shown according to the invention. The use of support 10 allows to make folding rollers 1 of considerable length and to process, therefore, webs or sheets of paper of considerable length, thus increasing productivity and flexibility of the machine without affecting the correct operation.